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**DBB** 2665



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Kansas City, Missouri

March 19, 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2006

**MARTIN BORMANN**

Mrs. J. William Townsend, 1417 Clay, Topeka, Kansas, advised an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on March 8, 1965, that she recently read an article in the March, 1965, issue of "Reader's Digest" concerning Martin Bormann.

She related that after reading the article and observing the photograph printed with the article, she believed a resident of Topeka, named Valter Sprengs, might be identical with Bormann.

Mrs. Townsend stated that she formerly employed Sprengs' wife, Anna Sprengs, now deceased, as a cleaning woman. She recalled on one occasion, Anna Sprengs mentioned that her husband was not sleeping well at night, and when Mrs. Townsend inquired as to the cause, Anna Sprengs told her that Valter Sprengs had been a high ranking officer in the Army during World War II prior to their immigration to the United States, and he was afraid that someone might still be looking for him. Anna Sprengs also related that Valter Sprengs' fear of this became so great that he began to sit up all night long with a shotgun.

According to Mrs. Townsend the Sprengs immigrated to the United States from Latvia in about 1951 or 1952. They have one child, a son named Bruno.

Mrs. Townsend described Valter Sprengs as a white male, age 60 to 65 years, 5'8" tall, weighing approximately 160 pounds, with gray hair, balding, and

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐  
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒  
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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brown eyes. His wife Anna, she said, died approximately one year ago. She noted they reside at 1181 Garfield in Topeka, Kansas.

After seeing the photograph in the "Reader's Digest" and recalling the aforementioned information and incidents related by Anna Sprengs, she thought the possibility of Sprengs being identical with Bormann existed. Mrs. Townsend related that the photograph appearing in the "Reader's Digest" actually resembled Sprengs' son Bruno more than it did Sprengs himself. Bruno, she said, is now at least twenty years old and she thought that due to the age of the photograph appearing in the magazine and the present age of Bruno Sprengs, this further aroused her interest.

She said she did not recall any scars or other identifying marks which Sprengs might have, and related it has been at least a year since she last saw him.

According to the Topeka City Directory, Valter Sprengs is employed as a laborer at the Topeka Foundry and Iron Works, Topeka, Kansas.

The records of the U. S. District Court Clerk for the District of Kansas reflect the following information regarding Sprengs:

Valter Sprengs and his wife Anna currently residing 1181 Garfield, Topeka, Kansas, filed a petition for naturalization, numbered 1000 and dated October 8, 1957. This petition reflects that Valter Sprengs arrived in the United States on board the USNS General McRae at New Orleans, Louisiana, on January 23, 1951. Sprengs was born August 10, 1904, in N. Nougorod, Russia, and is described as a white male, fair complexion, green eyes, gray hair, 5'8" tall, 164 pounds, race Latvian, occupation machinist. His wife Anna Sprengs was born May 31, 1901, in Krustipils, Latvia, and she is described as a white female, fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, 5'3" tall, 132 pounds. Their petition

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reflects they have one child named Bruno M. Sprengs, who was born June 20, 1938, at Cesis, Latvia. The following individuals are listed as witnesses on the petition:

Willard Greene, 1205 Mulvane, Topeka, Kansas, occupation accountant;

J. A. Colsay, 1212 West Dudley, Topeka, Kansas.

The alien registration number listed is as follows: A7-953-587.

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